

Border Heartbeat



The Official Newsletter
of the
Midlands Border Collie Club

Summer 2011

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A Word From The Editor

At the behest of the Kennel Club, we publish the following:

"...at its meeting on 15th February 2011 the general committee reviewed the Kennel Club Code of Ethics as per Kennel Club Regulation C2.e.

The following amendment to Clause 2 of the Code has been made:

'Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch may report such operations to the Kennel Club.'

Amendment underlined."

The full Code of Ethics can be seen on the MBCC's website.

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Many thanks go to those who've contributed to this issue of Border Heartbeat – we're very grateful for your news and views & we really do have a great summer issue for our readers!

As always I urge you to visit our website <http://www.midlandsbordercollielclub.com>, packed full of news, show results, articles of interest and of course the ever-expanding archives.

Sheila

Submission Of Articles

Any article you submit must be your own work, **or** you must have permission from the author/hold the copyright. Submitting your article to MBCC grants us the right to publish it in Border Heartbeat. It does not entitle you to any form of compensation, financial or otherwise. We reserve the right to reject an article if we feel it to be unsuitable. We reserve the right to

correct spelling and/or grammar should that be necessary. Articles should preferably be submitted in Word or Notepad electronic format via email.

Please note – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Midlands Border Collie Club or the Editor.

Forthcoming Events:

2011

August 5-7: Open Working Trial
October 2: Open Breed Show with Limited Obedience

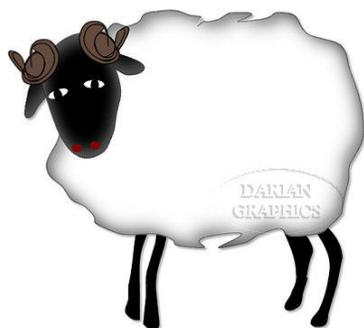
2012

January 22: Open Agility Show
January 30 (starts): Championship Working Trial
February 4: Championship Breed Show
February 25: AGM followed by Judging Assessment
April 7: Open Obedience Show (Easter Saturday)
April 9: Championship Obedience Show (Easter Monday)
August 10: Open Working Trial
October 7: Open Breed Show with Limited Obedience

Chairman's Chunters

What a hectic four months your committee has had – an Agility show, Working Trial, Breed show and a massive Obedience show. We again successfully ran all events without any major hiccups.

A first for the MBCC was an Open Agility competition at Solihull; this event was expertly organised by Sue, her husband a small team. I quite enjoyed this event and I hope that stick jumping becomes an annual event in the MBCC calendar! Because of our work load we have postponed organising an MBCC Agility team to compete in the World Cup events in Europe for another year, hopefully 2013. Any help or advice would be welcome.



Barry and Sue continue to run a well organised and well respected Working Trial. They are making plans for the KC Trial in 2013 and I know they would appreciate offers of help,

Our Championship Breed show was a big headache for a few days - we lost our regular venue at Bretby only a few weeks before the set date. I was extremely lucky to find a new venue at Stoneleigh, thanks to the staff at the KC. They bent over backwards to fit us in. Thank you to them. Next year we will book the same venue and caterers have also been booked. Most exhibitors like this venue. I found it extremely clean and the staff very helpful, with the majority of equipment needed to run a show already on site, I don't think we will change much for next year.

With losing Bretby we had to cancel the Border Collie Convention. We plan to run a smaller convention next year similar to the one we held at Basset Street.

Our next event of 2011 was the Open and Championship Obedience extravaganza at Measham. After months of planning Sheilagh and Co started to put together this event on the Wednesday evening and they finished the following Tuesday - a great event expertly run. Well done to all involved. We had the most beautiful weather, food second to none thanks to the local Scouts, which all contributed to a very nice weekend.

We have booked the same venue for 2012, our Open show on the Saturday and the Champ show on the Monday and on the Saturday maybe a Companion Dog show, a pig roast, a barn dance... any thoughts???

We always take on board constructive criticism and next year we will endeavour to arrange thing a little differently - just pray for good weather...

For this event we need and receive a lot of outside help. The MBCC committee sincerely thank you all. Special thanks to Sheilagh's right hand woman Jean and also to my right hand men Brian and Viv the campsite warden.

We have one more event this year, our Open Breed show. Please support this event as we would like to reduce the financial loss. Next year we hope to combine this show with Border Collie Of The Year, the same day, same venue, run on a points system with a selection of judges to suit all. Following the judging of this event we plan a formal dinner with the presentation of the winners' prizes. Would you prefer an invitation to you if you qualify or would a email message via the web site suffice?

I must welcome our new committee members Brian and Richard; thank you for your help at Easter, much appreciated.

I will attend most breed shows this summer. Come have a word, we appreciate your input.

Best wishes

Bob Tunnicliff
MBCC Chairman

Secretary's Salutations

Monday 25th April finds me sitting in a deck chair in the sun enjoying an ice-cream and absolutely surrounded by really clever canines and their dedicated handlers, such bliss, lazing in the sun with me are several other members of your committee so next time you hear us moaning about all the work we do you can refer us back to this article.

We are in fact helping Sheilagh Hyde at the club's Championship Obedience Show (in between enjoying the weather) which is held every Easter Monday. There are between 200 and 300 caravans here with many competitors staying the weekend and participating in the Open Obedience Show as well, which was held yesterday. What a change from last year when the heavy rain resulted in many vehicles and vans having to be towed out of the mud by the farmer. I will no doubt be going home hell bent on training my dogs to the high standard witnessed today, this new found energy will last for at least a couple of days!!

On Saturday evening Bob Tunnicliff organised a hog roast for the competitors; most people joined in bringing along a little drinkie or two with them, the excellent weather helped to make it a very pleasant evening for all concerned.

The venue for the Obedience Shows is excellent with space to walk your dogs in the surrounding fields and not far from the quaint market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch if one fancies a change from the camp-site.



Venues however can cause us a huge headache when it all goes wrong as it did in February for our Championship Breed Show. We had very little time to find a new suitable, affordable venue, notify everyone involved, change catalogues and organise meals for the judges. We were lucky to get the Kennel Club's venue and after a bit of bartering by Bob this came in at an affordable price. We have booked this venue for our next few Breed Shows, ok we will make a loss on the Open Show, nothing new there but The Midlands Club believes in spending your money on you so hopefully you will all come along on October 2nd and enjoy the day. We have organised a catering Company so in future you will be able to purchase refreshments throughout the day.

We have plans for another sheepdog training day at the end of the summer, so if you fancy trying your dog on sheep do come along, we have a good time and have lunch at a local transport cafe, very basic but comfortable, clean and the food is excellent.

Another event to look forward to is the open working trials in August again if you want a day out either enter or come along and see what it is all about.

Val Earp

MBCC Secretary

AGM 2011 - Minutes

Minutes of The Midlands Border Collie Club AGM Held on 26th February 2011
At The Basset Centre Wigston Leicestershire

Meeting opened at 9.05 am.

Present

Bob Tunnicliff, Chris Johnson, Valerie Earp, Doreen Hutchinson, Joan Cattell, Sheila Gay Sheilagh Hyde, Hilary Kerr, Voirrey Paesler, Emma Sadler, Amy Sadler, Ann Jordan, Ross Green, Pat Wilkinson, Tracey Wilkinson, Jo Ratcliffe, Rachel Spencer, Sue Morley, Richard Lucas, Ann Rogerson.

Apologies

Barrie James, Brian Marshall, Allison Tunnicliff.

President

Doreen Hutchinson opened the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting were read, Ann Jordan proposed they were a true record of the 2010 meeting; this was seconded by Voirrey Paesler.

Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report

Bob read: - each year my AGM report praises the committee, this year I must thank the small army of workers behind the scenes of all our events, without these folk the MBCC would not have the ability to run so many large events.

I am speaking of the husbands, wives, partners, friends and families and all those we conscript at our Shows to help us. Without this help it would be impossible to hold our Shows and run them to the standard all expect from the MBCC, a sincere thank you to you all.

2010 we introduced a few changes, we tried to simplify the Show secretary's job and gave the task of entry taking and all the printing to Fosse Data, and it's worked out very well.

At last we have realised that your committee are ageing, so we have decided to pay for people to help us run our events, money very well spent, we should have done this years ago.

Last but not least I wish to thank my fellow officers and committee for another year of dedication and support. I am able to ring you all and run thoughts, plans, idea's and problems past you and I know you will give me an honest opinion.

I have some hopes for the future, we have discussed in committee about sponsoring a MBCC agility team to compete at the IMCA World Championships in Europe.

Another hope, I would like the MBCC to host the first combined Border Collie Veteran, Puppy and Border Collie of the year event in 2012, I believe the combination of these events is the way forward.

Bob Tunnicliff

MBCC Chairman

Secretary's report

Just to reiterate Bobs thanks to all who have helped at our events this year.

A big welcome to Brian Marshall who has just joined us and Richard who just couldn't keep away.

There have been several people roped into running events for us, namely Sue Morley, Emma and Amy Saddler who ran our first Agility Show in January. This event ran smoothly, the competitors enjoyed themselves so hopefully the event will be repeated. Amy and Emma also ran our last Utility day.

Sue McCrilly acted as Show Secretary at our recent Championship Show, and what a baptism of fire she had with the last minute change of venue and all the changes this entailed.

Every year Barrie organises and runs two working trials events, this is a mammoth task for one person to attempt, thank you Barrie for all of the time and energy you put in to make the Working Trails such a success.

Di Venn and her partner Dave organised another sheep dog training day, poor Dave he never stopped running after naughty dogs all day, especially mine, thanks' to both of you.

Ann Jordan organised the Kennel Club herding test with the help of Bruce Kilsby, another success, I understand we will be hosting it again this year.(correction, The BC of GB organised this event and not us, talk about taking credit for someone else's work, apologies).

Joan and Chris, thank you for running the tombola the raffle, the canteen, Joan also runs the shop and Chris takes care of our money.

Sheilagh Hyde not only runs an Open Obedience Show, she follows it up the following day with a Championship Obedience Show, where do you get your energy from Sheilagh? Thank you.

Sheila Gay handles our web site and represents us at the Border Collie Breed Council and handles the DNA testing, plus organising the judging seminars. Hilary often works hand in hand with Sheila at our events.

Thanks Bob for being such a good chairman, even though you are a slave driver,

But mainly thank you to our members, for you support and attendance at these events, hopefully we are serving you well but feel free to contact any one of us if you have any suggestions.

Valerie Earp

Club Secretary

Treasurers Report – Year End 31st December 2010

Income £20939.76

Expenditure £19001.79

Profit £ 1937.97

Once again we have made an overall gain from our activities – the profits made on our Championship Breed, Championship Obedience AND our additional Open Obedience shows have enabled us to finance the losses incurred on the October Open Breed and Limited Obedience Show, Working Trials, Utility Days etc. As stated in my report last year it was agreed some years ago before the "fit for function" K.C. policy came into force that our loss making activities were of benefit to our members and their dogs as we have always placed the emphasis on the various disciplines associated with our Breed and I hope the membership continues to agree with this policy.

Memberships were slightly down but these do tend to fluctuate and the income follows the pattern of previous years.

As you will note we no longer issue printed copies of The Border Heartbeats (unless requested to do so) but our Web site continues to go from strength to strength under the superb guidance of Sheila Gay.

Finally I would like to thank Joe and Ross for putting together the first Border Collie Convention which our members and others enjoyed and although 2011 had to be cancelled I have been inundated with requests for another to be held.

Finally I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their help during the year.
Chris Johnson – Treasurer.

Election of Officers

It was proposed that the officers be voted on bloc:

Bob Tunnicliff – Chairman

Chris Johnson – Treasurer

Valerie Earp – Secretary

All were voted on unanimously.

Election of committee

Ann Jordan and Joan Cattell were both up for re-election.

Richard Lucas had agreed to come back on the committee.

Brian Marshall had agreed to come onto the committee but an important prior engagement meant he couldn't attend so it was decided to co-opt him onto the committee.

All of the above voted on unanimously.

Proposal

There was a proposal by Bob Tunnicliff to increase the membership fees.

There was a counter proposal by Jo Ratcliffe to increase only the joint membership by £1.

Neither proposal was passed; it was decided to leave the subscriptions as they are.

A.O.B.

Sue Morley was voted onto the committee; apparently she had only been co-opted last year.

Voirrey Paesler proposed that we have details of the AGM agenda on the website.

Jo Ratcliffe praised the MBCC for events run throughout the year, Ross Green seconded.

The meeting closed at 9.35 am.

Kennel Tales



Welcome to our look at some of the affixes (or Kennel Names, as the KC now calls them) within our breed. How did their owners first become involved in the wonderful world of Border Collies and how did their affix come into being? Our thanks to **Bruce Kilsby**, of the **Whenway** kennel, who has kindly contributed this issue's instalment.

Bruce writes:

The "Whenway" affix was not something that we came up with from anything connected to us etc it was in fact from a street atlas of Birmingham, Gavin just found a "Whenway" street or road in the atlas and we thought that

it sounded ok so thats how it came about.

We became involved in Border Collies in 1976 when on holiday on Anglesey, we were driving along the road on the way to the beach and saw a sign for Border Collie puppies for sale. We went to enquire about a puppy and met from that day on our friend Margaret Crispin. Margaret had GSD's and Border Collie puppies loose in a yard, opened the gate and simply said "Border Collies only" and the GSD's stayed where they were and the two Border Collie

puppies came out. We couldn't decide which one of the two we liked so decided to go away to the beach and think about which one we wanted.

We decided that we would have both, returned and collected them. They were registered at the ISDS as Gelert (ISDS 98184) and Rhos (ISDS 98185) and at the KC as Gelert Of Gawne From Whenway and Rhos Of Rushmead CD Ex. We originally trained them to compete in Obedience and Working Trials but started exhibiting as soon as the KC recognised the Breed and have been involved ever since.

The first litter that we bred was by Gelert out of a bitch from Scotland, Andersley Demelza From Whenway and in this litter was the late Sue Large's Whenway Mist From Wizaland, the only Show and Obedience Champion Border Collie to date.

We don't exhibit anymore as we are more interested in training our dogs for what they were originally bred for, herding. Bruce has qualified three show bred bitches for Registration On Merit at the International Sheep Dog Society, Ma Biche Of Whenway, Bridacre Flair and Littlethorn Qashqai. Bruce is now competing in sheepdog trials with Littlethorn Qashqai (Eve).

Through Border Collie judging we have had the chance to visit several Countries including USA, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Austria and the Irish Republic and we hope that we have given something back to the Breed through our well known stud dogs Sh Ch Tork Of Whenway, Int Ch Clan-Abby Blue Aberdoone and Sh Ch Whenway Royal Highlander. Our last Border Collie has taken us back to where we first started in the Breed, Wales. We purchased a puppy from the well known trialist John Griffith and named her Cara (ISDS 304551). She is by Int Sup Ch Roy (Aled Owen) out of John Griffith's Int and Welsh National Brace Ch Gwenno and Bruce will be competing with her in the Nursery Trials this winter. We won't be tempted to show her though as she is a smooth coated and prick eared!!

Bruce Kilsby

A Moment Of Madness

Confessing that I had a dream was a moment of madness which took my already crazy life to a different level.

The Dream

I was born on a farm and spent my early days wandering around the fields ably supported by the two farm collies, whose duty it was to report my whereabouts back to base camp. When my parents were trying to find me, which was often as I tended to go 'toddle about', one stayed with me and the other grassed me up. I guess I developed an affinity with them as I was growing up that made spending the rest of my life with them pretty much inevitable. I think it was my childhood with our farm dogs that helped me to understand their wonderful sense of fun and their love of adventure, but what I really admired about them was their amazing freedom of spirit.

Adulthood saw me shepherding, sheepdog trialling, rescuing and in general spending most of my waking moments with collies, my son and daughter were convinced that if I were a dog I'd be tri-coloured and prick eared. I was amazed as I always considered myself to be a black and white hazel eyed peace-maker, but obviously they know me better. Most of the rescues I took in were either very old or so mixed up that rehoming was rarely possible. So I accumulated a little army of elderly, and often bad tempered collies that nobody else seemed to want. My moment of madness came when I confessed in our aptly named magazine Freedom of Spirit that if I had the wherewithal I would have a sanctuary for old, retired, neglected collies. One of our subscribers passed away and left a legacy to Freedom of Spirit so the dream could begin.

Mainline Border Collie Centre remained the same but the rescue side became The Freedom of Spirit Trust for Border Collies. We sought and were granted charity status; the existing

kennels were customised, new ones built and play pens erected. The 'we' is myself and two other founder Trustees and we made a vow that we would work for and spend money on the dogs and that every donation that came in would go to that cause. So why was it a moment of madness? Because the dream of a sanctuary for Border Collies isn't the idyllic dream that I might have had in mind, I can no longer say to these mixed up boys and girls that they can stay in my care for the rest of their lives. In fact it's because I had done that previously, and very nearly banked myself in the process, that the dream was born in the first place. To keep our promise we must keep spaces in the kennels and that means sanctuary, rehabilitation and whenever possible rehoming.

The Reality

As a behaviourist I was no stranger to problems that dogs of any breed can have, and having rescued collies for many years I have had practically every problem in the book thrown at me. Aggression, fear, dominance, strong dogs, vulnerable dogs, you name it we've seen it and with the behavioural side I am used to calming down stressed owners and showing them a way forward. But understanding some of our human species is something that still eludes me. How can someone ring me up and demand that it is my responsibility to 'sort their dog out'? What makes someone tell me it is my 'duty' to take in their dog? Where is the commitment that is needed to bring up a well-mannered dog? Often I am told that they work full time and thought it would be okay to leave the dog in the garden all day, or they have a baby and can't possibly manage the dog as well. One lady even told me she 'couldn't keep both the dog and the child!' The mind boggles. Then there are the 'poundies', nobody is looking out for them because they are unwanted, sometimes abused and often suspicious. What kind of person abuses a dog, locks it in a shed or a garage, feeds it rarely and loves it never? Whatever walk of life they come from I will leave you to call them the names you think fit!



The healing process

When these boys and girls come in to us we leave them alone, they are given a clean airy pen, fresh water and a warm feed and absolutely no pressure. If they are at risk of carrying an infection they go into our isolation unit, if they have been abused or are very nervous they go in one of our observation pens while the others, either with or without problems, go on the behavioural unit until we have assessed them. All pens lead to an indoor play area where they go at intervals during the day, the design is such that nervous or aggressive dogs don't have to have a lead on. It can take three weeks before we begin to see the 'real' dog and in that time they have been free of pressure or fear, they graduate from indoor play areas to

outside ones and once they are settled they move into our outside covered yard. This is four rows of kennels with five pens on each row and each block is totally private with its own play area. Each row and play area leads out to other areas so dogs can be on their own, in twos or in groups. They can be under the cover of a huge Perspex roof or out in the open in pens eight feet high with a wire top. This ensures that the dogs are never pressured by other dogs, they can exercise out in all weathers but not get wet or cold and in hot weather they can sun themselves without risk of overheating. The whole design is such that escapologists and jumpers are secure but our older and more sedate dogs can wander around the gardens and grass paddocks, thanks to thick hedges and good fencing.

All the rescues are fed on a good diet and any with 'dicky' tummies have a prescription diet – expensive but it works. Each dog has a vet check on entry or, in the case of nervous ones, as soon as possible. For any dog unable to travel due to fear or abuse we have the vet out to them. We also have a treadmill which at one time was on my 'wish list' but we decided to purchase it ourselves and try to raise the funding for it later. This has proved to be worth its weight in gold, obese dogs are never at risk of being over walked and as the weight comes off the muscle gently goes on. During winter when we were snowed up and the outside play areas were too dangerous for them to exercise in the treadmill kept the 'tickle' out of the feet of the young dogs. They never get more than ten minutes and never go faster than a jog. We are not trying to create athletes we just want them to settle down. In summer it is rarely used but in winter it has kept many a young dog exercised and prevented me from sliding unceremoniously down the lane on my rear end. There are only three of us looking after the dogs, myself full time, my daughter Vicki who manages the day to day running if I am called away (I wish!) and Jess who is learning the ropes and works four days a week. I draw the short straw as the Trust is based on the farm which is also my home so I'm there all the time - but then it was my dream! We have several dogs in permanent sanctuary, some are elderly and some of them have had severe behavioural problems and it is safer for them to remain with us. Others can be rehomed but are special cases and we are aware that there is a 'once only' home for them and we have to wait until it turns up, and others are just waiting to be adopted. Each new guardian is told everything that we know about the dog, any problems and what training it has received, they are given information on the breed, on training, on living with a rescue, have a free training session waiting for them when they are ready for it and are given back up over the telephone whenever they need it. Our dogs are still our concern even after being rehomed as we want them to be happy and make their new guardians happy.

My dream now is having time out but that's a long way off, although during last summer my old Hope fell down the stairs (up to then he had been my 'bed buddy') and dislocated his hip. He had a grade five heart murmur and had to undergo surgery to pin it and then surgery again to take the pin out. But he still had a light in his eye and I have Andy Torrington of Torrington's orthopaedic clinic to thank for giving my boy the chance of another wonderful six months which allowed him to go when he was ready. During that time I slept on the living room floor so I could guarantee that he didn't do anything to upset or dislodge the pin. I still had to look after all the rescues but for those two months my boy came first and although my daughter told me the room looked a little like the set of men behaving badly she did also tell me that nobody could ever take away that very special two months. She was right, we were close to begin with but the way he smiled when he awoke and saw me each morning will stay with me forever. Why have I just told you about my Hope when this article is about rescues? Because the relationship I had with Hope, as with all my own dogs was special and although I hurt like hell when they go over Rainbow Bridge my real sadness is for the dogs in my care in the rescue, Dear God they deserve to be special, even the ones that are aggressive because none of them were born hurt, maimed or bad, they have just never been special to anyone.

The Trust isn't just about the endless round of taking dogs in and rehoming, it's about help, advice, education and sensible dog ownership and on April 29th 2012 we are taking our For The Love of Dogs programme to Newark Showground where we will be talking about rescues, living with rescues, understanding dogs of all breeds and their needs so please come and join us, we have a ticket charge to help cover the cost of refreshments and the hall but it is not a big charge, or a big ask. Our Patron Dame Ellen MacArthur, who has two collies of

her own, will be supporting us at Newark and will also be featured on the DVD which we have coming out later this year.

You can find out more about the Trust at www.fostbc.org.uk and if you can sponsor a dog, do a fund raising event or just spread the word it would be great and every little bit will help to bring the dream come true – of a sanctuary for old and infirm collies because the Trust has gone out of business due to no more dogs needing rescuing – okay so that's not realistic in our world today but helping to raise awareness is.



We have Ambassador Dogs that are willing to travel to functions, and if you go to Newark you can meet them, but before you do visit the site and see our little deaf Digby. Digby was to be put to sleep at three weeks old before came into our care and he is now in training as a future Ambassador Dog – is he going to be another 'bed buddy'? Watch this space.



Barbara Sykes

Pastoral Breeds Health Foundation - an update on genetic research

Many of you will have been at the MBCC Open Show in October and seen lots of dogs and lots of paperwork in the back room; this was the PBHF Glaucoma testing clinic held in conjunction with the BVA eye panellists. The idea of this day was to test as many dogs as possible for Glaucoma – a disease which until very recently was not known in the BC. We did indeed test as many as possible – working from about 10 in the morning until well after the show had finished. This was a VITAL piece of research by the PBHF with the aim of (a) getting a standardised method to be used by all panellists when testing for glaucoma and (b) to get information to Alan Wilton at the University of New South Wales to start a research project to hopefully find the gene(s) responsible for the disease.

So, I hear you ask, who or what is the PBHF? And what does it do?

The Pastoral Breeds Health Foundation started life as the CEA (Collie Eye Anomaly) Working Group. This group was formed with the objective to promote research into genetically transmitted conditions and diseases affecting Border Collies and related breeds. It was founded by the UK Border Collie breed clubs in 2000 and subsequently renamed, after the CEA DNA test became available, the PBHF. From its early days Shetland Sheepdogs and

Lancashire Heelers have been involved and the group is willing to work with ANY breeds within the pastoral group.

Since its foundation it has helped to fund research into three genetic diseases within the Border Collie breed – namely neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (NCL) trapped neutrophil syndrome (TNS), and its original target, Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA). As a result of this work it is now possible (and indeed highly desirable) to test Border Collies for all three diseases before planning to breed. By careful use of testing carriers can be bred from (obviously only to genetically clear mates) – thus preventing the possible loss of valuable breed lines, and with time the diseases can, in theory be totally eradicated.

Glaucoma

We hope to see more & more genetic tests become available as a tool for Breeders & owners to ensure that their dogs & breeding lines are, and remain, healthy. To this end the PBHF are currently actively involved in fund raising for research into Glaucoma. At present the PBHF's application for funding for a research project to be carried out in the UK and Australia into Glaucoma in the Border Collie is under consideration by the Kennel Club Charitable Trust.

Obviously this research requires a large database of dogs – not simply those (the minority) which have been affected in some way by glaucoma but also those who are totally unaffected. To achieve this comprehensive database we need as many results as possible to be submitted for inclusion – the pedigree information is invaluable and even if the result obtained for the individual dog is not perhaps what the breeder or owner would like it can certainly help us in the search for the 'rogue' gene(s) involved. Without this information, without the subsequent submission of blood for DNA sampling, we will be held back, possibly by years. Glaucoma reared its ugly head very recently – it would be wonderful for me to be able to announce that thanks to the honesty and integrity of breeders/owners that we have achieved a DNA test in double quick time and that we can then work to eradicate this disease as quickly as it arrived.

So please, when you have your dog tested for glaucoma submit your results to the BC health database and be prepared, if asked, to also submit DNA for testing. To submit results simply follow this link:

<http://bc-glucomadatabase.synthasite.com>

and follow the instructions. There can be no shame in having a dog which is affected by a disease – this dog can and will help with the research to ensure that we can do everything in our power to ensure that the disease is eradicated. We thank those who have helped us and appreciate your honesty and integrity – it can be devastating to have a dog affected by glaucoma – and its only with your help that we can ensure that soon no-one else will have such heart breaking news.

Epilepsy

At the same time the PBHF is also helping to obtain DNA samples for the epilepsy research being carried out by the Animal Health Trust and the University of Finland. Epilepsy is a wide subject to cover – the research is hoping to find possible causes of some forms of *inherited* epilepsy – it will be an on-going project for some considerable time but the more DNA and pedigree details they have for their database the easier their work will become – to that end the PBHF is happy to sample dogs who may have been affected by epilepsy, related to dogs which have been affected by it or dogs *over the age of seven years* who have no known epilepsy connection in their pedigrees. The information is treated totally confidentially – but if people DON'T come forward and help the research will take longer. Epilepsy is a terrible condition for any dog – and hiding it under the carpet is not good for anyone. In fact hiding any health information under the carpet is in no way helpful to the future of the breed.

How can I help?

So that's who we are and what we have achieved and what we are working on – but how you may ask does this affect you? The very fact that you are reading this means that the health of your own dogs is important to you – the health of your dogs and dogs you will have in the future is important to us too and what we are looking for is more help to educate and inform at grass roots level – and more fund raisers! There are many, many ways that you can help – no offer of help, no donation is too small – and every penny counts. We pride ourselves in being a pro-active organisation with the continued health of the breeds we are involved with of major importance to us.

In the past we have raised funds through sponsored walks, companion dog shows, sponsored slims, raffles, the sale of calendars and ring clips. We are now recruiting people in the overseas dog community to help us spread the word and fundraise, we are especially keen to have people in the dog sports working with us (Obedience, Agility, Flyball, HWTM etc.) the show fraternity, long maligned by many, are most generous when it comes to time, effort and money. All who own dogs stand to benefit from the work of the PBHF as we continue our aim to promote research into genetically transmitted conditions and diseases affecting Border Collies and other breeds.

If you would like to be involved with the work of the PBHF or would like to make a donation to our funds please visit the website – www.pbhf-dog.com and there you will find full contact details. You can also now find the PBHF on Facebook [PastoralBHF@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/PastoralBHF@groups.facebook.com). Nobody can say we don't move with the times!!!

I wish you all a long, happy and healthy summer with your dogs.

Hilary Kerr

PBHF Secretary, May 2011

Discover Dogs - Crufts 2011

It always gives me a little shiver of excitement being at Crufts, not that I show my dogs these days, oh no those days are long gone, instead myself and other members of The Midlands Border Collie Club take our dogs to represent the breed at discover dogs. This year we had Sh. Ch. Littlethorn Galaxy aka Posh, Joan Cattell's Gyp and my Misty. Well Posh was in his element him being a stud dog and having two ladies to flirt with, but Misty and Gyp were having none of it - champion or not they soon put him in his place, well Gyp did whilst Misty fluttered her eyelashes and pretended to play hard to get.

For those of you who have never been to the Discover Dogs section at Crufts, every breed recognised by the Kennel Club is represented; each breed has its own little area which is usually decorated with photographs, flags and information about the breed. The dogs need to have a sound temperament as they are fussed and patted throughout the day by the public, they also need to look like the breed but do not have to be a Show dog as such. Our dogs were more than happy to oblige, especially Posh who is quite a poser and hogged the limelight for photographs - there are probably photographs of him in every corner of the world!

As the Border Collie excels in so many disciplines we were kept busy all day answering questions. It is always good to meet enthusiasts from other countries, like us they are very proud of their dogs and love to tell us about them.

One of my highlights on the day was meeting a little pack of Sealyham terriers, such happy (but naughty) dogs. Sadly the breed is in decline and apparently there were less than fifty puppies registered last year, this leaves the gene pool very small and puts the future of the breed in jeopardy. I for one have always loved this breed and who knows I may well own one in the future.

Amongst the wonderfully turned out show dogs were also dogs competing in Agility, Flyball, Obedience and KC Good Citizen schemes, truly something for everyone who loves dogs. However! For a shopaholic like me the stalls drew me like a magnet. China; paintings; dog food; treats; beds; all manner of doggie clobber, plus handbags; clothes; gadgets.... I always take some spending money with me and always go home broke, but what fun. The dogs will be available for paw prints/autographs and photographs at Just Dogs Live at Peterborough Show in July.

Valerie Earp



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